

North Cerney Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING on 4th September 2017 at 7.30 pm at The Memorial Hall, North Cerney

Present: Councillors M Tufnell, N Wilkes and A Stoten, County Councillor P Hodgkinson, B Koch as RFO and 3 parishioners

Presiding: Councillor M Tufnell

Clerk: V Hancock

Apologies: Councillor C Wakefield

1. Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 9th May 2017

The Council **resolved** that the Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 9th May 2017 at The Memorial Hall North Cerney be approved and signed.

2. Matters Arising:

Telephone boxes: The Clerk had made enquiries of the Clerk of Compton Abdale Parish Council. Their telephone box had been painted by volunteers. The Clerk would again ask for volunteers, through the Churn News, to paint the telephone boxes in North Cerney and Woodmancote.

3. Co-Option of Councillor:

The vacancy arising from the retirement of Councillor Smith had been advertised for the required period, but no election had been requested. It was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Councillor Wilkes that Mrs C Martin be co-opted, and the Council **resolved that** Mrs Martin be co-opted as a Councillor.

4. District and County Issues:

4.1 **County Council:** Councillor Hodgkinson reported on the following:

4.1.1 Chapel Lane was currently closed because of a badger sett beneath it. GCC Highways had applied for a licence from DEFRA, but they hoped to be able to start work on the road next week. The work would be dealt with as soon as possible. At the same time, they would try to improve the visibility of the sign at the top of the road

4.1.2 The County Council had received a report from OFSTED regarding their child care services. For the second year in succession the service had been rated as "inadequate". As a result, the service was now in special measures.

4.1.1.3 He had lodged comments supporting the current planning application for affordable housing. He thought it essential that, if consent was granted, the 40 mph speed limit should be extended to the start of Churnside. The Clerk was asked to write to Danny Taylor at GCC Highways telling him that this had been requested by both Councillor Hodgkinson and the Parish Council.

4.1.1.4 Construction of the "missing link" on the A417 was due to start in 2021. There would shortly be formal consultation on the possible methods of solving the problem. After that the final proposal would go for ratification before work commenced. Construction was likely to take some three years.

4.2 **District Council:** In the absence of Councillor Forde there was no report

5. Financial Matters:

5.1 **Appointment of Internal Auditor:** Sara Telling had indicated that she was willing to be appointed. It was agreed that the RFO would speak to Veronika Forte to find out whether or not she wished to continue

5.1 **Reconciliation Statement:** The reconciliation statement was presented by the RFO and **it was resolved** that it be approved.

5.2 **Authorisation of Expenditure:** The following expenditure was approved:

AON	Annual Insurance	804.59
GAPTC	Annual Membership	140.39
Memorial Hall	Use of Hall – February	14.25
RoSPA	Annual Playground Inspection	84.00
V Hancock	Clerk monthly salary and PAYE	617.40
Memorial Hall	Use of hall – May	14.25

6. Highway Issues:

6.1 The Winter Maintenance request had been received from Ameys and was passed to the Chairman to complete and return to the Clerk

6.2 Councillor Martin asked if the salt bin near Hillview could be moved slightly uphill from its present position in the turning area. It was agreed that there may be a need for an additional bin in The Orchard. The Clerk would contact Gloucestershire Highways.

6.3 A Highway Satisfaction Survey had been received. The Clerk was requested to complete this, and, if possible, circulate it to Councillors.

6.4 The Clerk mentioned that the pavement between Churnside and the crossroads was still very overgrown, and reduced in width. Councillor Hodgkinson said he would pursue this.

7. Neighbourhood Watch and Crime Prevention:

7.1 **Neighbourhood Watch:** Councillor Wilkes reported that there was still little support for Neighbourhood Watch in North Cerney. A few more residents had signed up after a note was published in Churn News. The Chairman suggested Councillor Wilkes might ask PCSO Shutt if she could help in getting more residents involved, or by putting another article in Churn News..

7.2 **Crime:** There had been an increasing number of reports from the police about crime and suspicious vehicles in nearby villages, as well as one threatened assault in North Cerney

8. **Affordable Housing Update:** The Clerk reported that a revised site plan for the proposed development had been submitted, following receipt of comments from Highways, Conservation and Landscaping officers. Cirencester Housing had said that this had followed a meeting in July with the CDC Planning Team, which Councillor Forde and a member of the Planning Committee had attended.

8. Woodmancote Playground:

8.1 The Clerk reported that as yet she had not heard that anyone had volunteered to carry out the regular inspections. She was asked to make enquiries of Councillors Wakefield and Sergeant.

8.2 New Equipment: In the absence of Councillors Sergeant and Wakefield there was no further information

8.3 Councillor Wakefield had notified the Clerk that the "No Dogs" sign had disappeared.

8.4 The Clerk had been notified by a local resident that even small children were climbing on to the roof of the shelter. She suggested that the edge of the roof might be painted with anti-climb paint (with suitable warning notices). She was asked to find out the views of Councillors Sergeant and Wakefield on this.

9. Planning Applications and Tree Preservation Orders

9.1 Planning Applications: The Council had been notified of the following:

13 The Orchard North Cerney: loft conversion and single-storey side extension and associated works - Consent granted

16 North Cerney: Single storey conservatory style rear extension – Certificate of Lawfulness issued.

North Cerney School: demolition of existing temporary toilet block and construction of new single storey toilet block – Consent granted

Red Sheds, The Whiteway: Conversion of agricultural buildings to a dwelling and erection of ancillary outbuildings with change of use of associated land to domestic curtilage and modifications to the access – Still pending and the Council had lodged an objection.

9.2 Decision Notices: as above.

10. Correspondence:

The following correspondence was reported by the Clerk:

10.1. North Cerney School had reported that a prize of £300 had been received for the litter-pick, which they had offered to share with the Council. It was **resolved** that this be donated to the School.

10.2 Notice of a Parish and Town Council Meeting on 6 September

10.3 A letter from Cotswold Citizens Advice, thanking the Council for its past support and requesting continuing support

10.4 From GAPTC asking if the Council had experienced problems with its Bank. The RFO reported that there had been a recent problem when the Bank cancelled standing orders without any request to do so. It was agreed this should be reported to GAPTC.

10.5 An email message from someone intending to start a Cotswold Local Information Group on Facebook, to which any local organisation could contribute information or news.

10.6 Resulting from a complaint they had received from a resident, Bathurst Estates had asked the Clerk to request the Village Hall not to use the driveway alongside the Hall for deliveries etc, The Clerk had suggested to them that, as the issue concerned land owned by them, it would be better that they contact the Village Hall.

11. Any Other Business

11.1 Community Emergency Plan: Cotswold District Council had written asking whether the Council had an Emergency Plan, or, if none existed, whether the Council would like one. The Clerk had also been notified by GRCC that they were working on a funding bid to enable them to provide support to communities in the Cotswold District to compile, review or update Community Emergency Plans. They had asked whether the Council would be interested in using this support if the funding bid was successful. It was agreed that the Council would be interested, and the Clerk would notify GRCC.

11.2 **Churn News:** The Churn News had been in financial difficulties, but they had now been able to arrange for lower printing costs through the CDC Print Office, and the problem was resolved.

11.3 **North Cerney village pump:** The Clerk had received complaints that the pump at Granny Mabbett's Corner no longer had a water supply. She was in touch with Councillor Forde, who was trying to ascertain which CDC department could look into this.

11.4 **Lighting:** A resident of Hillview reported that the street light outside her property had been converted to LED, and she considered it a great improvement. She asked why the Council were opposed to the conversion of the other lights in the village. It was explained that the fact that the other lights had not been replaced in March as expected was not due to opposition by the Council. The Council had received no explanation. Councillor Wilkes, also a resident of Hillview, said that most of that road was now very dark, as a result of which his partner had had a recent fall. He had spoken to Gloucestershire street lights department, who had told him there should be another street light in Hillview. Councillor Hodgkinson agreed to ascertain what was intended regarding the village lighting.

13. Date of the next Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting would be held on Monday 20 November 2017 at 7.45 pm

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.50 pm

Signed

Date: